

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 12 November 2007

REPORT ON: Financial Support to The Dundee Sirolli Initiative

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 555-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report seeks approval for a grant award from the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund as a contribution towards start up costs for the Sirolli initiative in Dundee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the award of a grant of £1,000 towards the start up costs for the establishment of the Sirolli initiative in Dundee.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost will be contained within the third party payments budget head of Leisure and Communities for 2007-2008.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Sirolli Initiative aims to develop enterprise facilitation as a person-centred approach to community economic development.
- Enterprise Facilitation is controlled and managed at the grass roots of a community by a local Board of Management comprised of civic leaders, community professionals and economic development practitioners.
 - The local Board hires and supports the training of a full-time Enterprise Facilitator who is the catalyst for assisting and encouraging local enterprise.
 - The Sirolli Institute trains the local Board and Enterprise Facilitator on how to implement the program.
 - Enterprise Facilitators provide intensive, one to one assistance. They link clients to programs and resources offered by development organisations and professionals.
 - Enterprise Facilitators test the personal motivation and skill of the client and develop the client's capacity to assess their own management strengths and weaknesses.
 - The service is available for free and in confidence to any local individual with an idea for starting or expanding a business.

5.0 MAIN TEXT

- 5.1 The Dundee bid to establish the Sirolli Initiative across the Maryfield and Coldside areas has been successful.

- 5.2 A Steering Group has been formed to take this initiative forward and around 40 people attended two recent information giving and recruitment sessions.
- 5.3 The appointment of an enterprise facilitator will be followed by a fairly intensive training programme for panel members to provide the knowledge and skills required to make this initiative successful.
- 5.4 To draw in £150,000 investment from Communities Scotland to run the initiative, matched funding, including in-kind support, must be found from the City.
- 5.5 Community Development Support and a grant of £1,000 towards the start up costs will contribute towards the matched funding target.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.